

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 SSO-00 DHA-02 L-03 H-01
USIE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 NSCE-00 NSC-05 JUSE-00 SCA-01
/024 W

-----222315Z 130992 /62

O 221300Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL RECIFE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5753

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L RECIFE 0068

BRASILIA FOR DCM

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, BR

SUBJ: W/W--ARRESTS: (CAPUANO, THOMAS AND ROSEBAUGH, LAWRENCE)

REF: BRASILIA 4092, BRASILIA 4123, AND PREVIOUS

1. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FEDERAL POLICE IN PERNAMBUCO, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM BRASILIA, CAME TO CONSUL'S HOUSE AT 4 PM ON MAY 21 TO DISCUSS CASE. HE ASKED FOR AND WAS GIVEN INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARREST AS KNOWN BY THE CONSULATE. HE WAS TOLD THAT THE CONSUL WOULD REGISTER A PROTEST WITH THE PERNAMBUCO STATE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC SECURITY THAT DAY. HE EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT ABOUT WHY THE CLERGYMEN WERE ARRESTED AND WHY, AS FOREIGNERS, THEY WERE NOT TURNED

OVER TO THE FEDERAL POLICE AS REQUIRED. THE FEDERAL POLICE, HE ADDED, HAS THE STANDARD OPERATING PRACTICE OF NOTIFYING CONSULS OF ARRESTS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS. HE SAID HE WILL MAKE AN INVESTIGATION AND KEEP CONSUL INFORMED.

2. THE FOURTH ARMY WORKING CONTACT WAS INFORMED THAT THE CONSUL WOULD LODGE A PROTEST WITH THE STATE PUBLIC SECURITY AGENCY THAT SAME DAY (MAY 21). HE SAID THAT HE WOULD REPORT THIS AND THE FACTS OF
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THE CASE TO SUPERIORS IN THE FOURTH ARMY.

3. A PROTEST WAS REGISTERED WITH THE STATE PUBLIC SECURITY AGENCY DUTY OFFICER AT 8:30 PM ON MAY 21 FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN BRASILIA 4092 PARAGRAPH 2.

4. AT 9 PM THE CONSUL RETURNED THE CALL OF THE GOVERNOR WHO HAD

CALLED SHORTLY AFTER THE CONSUL LEFT HOME TO FILE THE PROTEST WITH THE STATE SECURITY AGENCY. THE GOVERNOR ASKED WHAT WAS GOING ON AS HE KNEW ONLY THE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THE ARRESTS. HE SAID THAT THE STATE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SECURITY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THEM AS WELL. THE CONSUL INFORMED HIM THAT HE HAD JUST FILED A CONFIDENTIAL

PROTEST WITH THE DUTY OFFICER OF THE STATE PUBLIC SECURITY AGENCY IN THE ABSENCE OF THE SECRETARY WHO WAS TRAVELLING IN THE INTERIOR. AFTER LISTENING TO THE FACTS SURROUNDING THE ARRESTS AND THE PROTEST FILED WITH THE PUBLIC SECURITY AGENCY, THE GOVERNOR THANKED THE CONSUL FOR THE INFORMATION AND CHARACTERIZED THE ARRESTS AS "INCREDIBLE" AND SAID THAT THE CONSUL HAD ACTED PROPERLY. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD SEE THAT AN INVESTIGATION IS MADE AND THAT THE GUILTY ARE PUNISHED. THE CONSUL INFORMED HIM THAT THE OBLATE FATHERS ARE THINKING OF TAKING LEGAL ACTION AND THAT MEDIA INTEREST IN BRAZIL IS CONSIDERABLE AND THAT IT IS DEVELOPING IN THE UNITED STATES.

5. THE GOVERNOR CALLED AGAIN AT 10:15 PM TO INFORM THE CONSUL THAT THE TWO PUBLIC SECURITY AGENCY AGENTS INVOLVED HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON HIS ORDERS AND WERE IN JAIL PENDING AN INVESTIGATION. THE GOVERNOR

SAID "THIS SORT OF THING CANNOT BE TOLERATED."

6. THE STATE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SECURITY CALLED THE CONSUL AT 1045 PM AND SAID THAT UPON RETURNING FROM THE INTERIOR (SOONER THEN EXPECTED) HE HAD BEEN SPOKEN TO BY THE GOVERNOR ABOUT THIS CASE. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE TWO AGENTS ARE IN JAIL PENDING A HEARING. HE ASKED FOR AND WAS GIVEN A RECITATION OF THE FACTS CONCERNING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DETENTIONS AND THE REASONS FOR THE CONSUL'S PROTESTS.

7. THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE POLICE: "THEY ARE CRITICIZED FOR NOT DOING ENOUGH AND ALSO FOR DOING TOO MUCH. CRIMINALS AND THIEVES LIVE ON THE STREETS IN THE AREA WHERE THE PRIESTS WERE LIVING--TWO HAD BEEN KILLED IN A SHOOT OUT WITH POLICE THE PREVIOUS NIGHT. THE CLERGYMEN WERE DRESSED IN RAGGED CLOTHES NOT LIKE CLERGYMEN BUT RATHER LIKE CRIMINALS AND THIEVES. THE WONDER IS THAT THE CLERGYMEN WERE NOT PICKED UP SOONER* MANY MARGINAIS HAVE FALSE DOCUMENTS; MANY CLAIM TO BE ONE THING OR ANOTHER. THE CLERGYMEN SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE POLICE WHEN THEY STARTED THEIR PROJECT--IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AND PERHAPS GOTTEN SPECIAL IDENTITY CARDS FROM THE POLICE."

8. THE CONSUL REPLIED THAT AS HE UNDERSTOOD THE CLERGYMEN'S PROJECT, THEY SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY WITH THE PEOPLE THERE SO AS TO BETTER

COMMUNICATE WITH THEM AND HELP THEM. THEY DRESSED, ATE AND SLEPT WITH THESE PEOPLE. THE SPECIAL IDENTITY CARDS, FROM THEIR POINT

OF VIEW, WOULD WORK CONTRARY TO THEIR EFFORTS. MOREOVER, THE VERY NEED FOR SPECIAL IDENTITY CARDS MAY BE SEEN AS PROOF THAT THE POOR HAVE NO RIGHTS AND ARE ABUSED.

9. THE SECRETARY REPEATED HIS POINT THAT THE PEOPLE LIVING ON THE STREETS ARE NOT THE POOR BUT THE CRIMINALS (MARGINAIS).

10. IT WAS AGREED TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION DURING THE APPOINTMENT SET PREVIOUSLY FOR MAY 23 AT 4 PM.

11. PRESS: THE GOVERNOR'S ACTION ORDERING AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ARREST AND THE DETENTION OF TWO POLICE AGENTS ON GROUNDS OF ARBITRARY ARREST WAS REPORTED IN RECIFE'S SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS-- PAGE ONE OF THE JORNAL DE COMERCIO AND PAGE 25 OF THE DIARIO DE PERNAMBUCO. THE JORNAL DE COMERCIO IDENTIFIED THE TWO ARRESTING POLICE AGENTS AS WALDOMIRO AND CESARIO AND SAID THAT THEY HAD ALREADY BEEN APPREHENDED AND DETAINED PENDING FURTHER ACTION BY THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SECURITY. THERE WAS NO MENTION THAT CLERGYMEN TOMAS AND LOURENCO ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS. HOFFENBERG

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TARY OF PUBLIC SECURITY. THERE WAS NO MENTION THAT CLERGYMEN TOMAS AND LOURENCO ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS. HOFFENBERG

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